

BRIEFING

21st century communications from the City of Bloomington

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A winning endeavor

This spring, youth baseball teams and spectators will be treated to a new concession building at the Kent Hrbek Youth Field Complex, 9001 Nicollet Ave. S. The two-story structure features a concession stand on the ground level. New restrooms and a commons/viewing area, also available for meetings, are on the second level.

Outside estimates to construct the building totaled \$480,000. Instead, the City's highly skilled Facility Maintenance Section built the structure for \$314,000. The Section provided the carpentry and, as general contractor, subcontracted local companies to perform electrical, tile, brick, plumbing, flooring and steel work. The Street Maintenance Section excavated and paved the site. Construction began in spring 2002 and was completed within budget.

Donations totaling \$18,000 came from Bloomington Traveling Baseball Association (BTBA), Bloomington Athletic Association (BAA) and Richfield/Bloomington Eagles Club. Concession proceeds will benefit BTBA and BAA; and a portion will be used by the City for the maintenance of youth fields. For more information, call Jason Hicks, 952-563-8880.

We're moving!

Same quality services, new name and location

On **Tuesday, May 27**, Bloomington's Police, City Hall and Arts Center facility will open for business. Come visit the new **Bloomington Civic Plaza** at **1800 West Old Shakopee Road** (98th Street and Old Shakopee Road) and let us know how we may serve you! ♦

Facilities Update

New headquarters enhance your Police service

In less than two months, Bloomington Police will move from their 18,000 square foot headquarters at Penn and Old Shakopee Road to a 44,000 square foot facility at 98th Street and Old Shakopee Road. The new headquarters will meet a long-standing need for more space to accommodate Bloomington's 114 sworn police officers and staff. In addition, the building's new features are cost-effective and efficient.

Lobby design

To reduce Police staff time in locating reports, the lobby has been designed to enable future public access to police reports from a self-service

computer station. Reports will also be available on the City's Web site. The Police lobby will be staffed from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. to assist with accident and police reports, applications for gun permits or appointments with the Police. Just off the lobby, two small conference rooms will be available for individuals to discuss sensitive or confidential information with police officers and detectives.

Jail features enhanced security

To better protect our community, a new jail will provide enhanced security. Police will be able to view all entrances through live digital cameras.

Two interview rooms, located inside the jail, ensure that inmates will no longer be escorted outside of a secured area for questioning.

The number of jail cells will increase from six to thirteen. Holding more inmates on-site saves money and time. Currently, Police transport inmates to the Hennepin County Jail, and pay substantial booking and detention fees. In addition, inmate interviews conducted on site will save hours of detectives' time and transportation costs.

Multi-purpose conference room

Today, Police cram into the Department's only meet-



ing space: a small 15-seat room used for roll call. The new facility will house a roll call space that will more than triple in size. In addition, a 55-seat multi-purpose conference room will be available to all City staff. The audio/visual-equipped space will be used for training, major investigations and staff-conducted public meetings. In a disaster, the room will serve as a gathering point for emergency management decisions. The room features radio transmission capability, computer network access and special phone lines to contact other state and county resources.

Underground parking

To protect the City's capital investments from harsh winter weather, parking for the Department's 27 squad cars and specialty service vehicles will be underground. Not only will this keep maintenance costs down, but police won't spend hours clearing off and digging out squad cars in winter, enabling them to get out on the street faster.

For more information

The Police facility, along with a new City Hall and an arts center will open to serve the public in early summer 2003. For information, call Clark Arneson at 952-563-8921 or e-mail carneson@ci.bloomington.mn.us. ♦

Ending on a positive note



"Working on the new City facilities has been my best project."

Duane Pojar, Project Superintendent with M.A. Mortenson

Duane Pojar's work has taken him from the canals at Epcot Center in Orlando to the light rail train

stations along the Long Beach/Los Angeles route to his final stop. After 45 years in construction, Pojar, Project Superintendent with M.A. Mortenson, is retiring when Bloomington's new Police/City Hall/Arts Center opens.

Team effort

Polgar says it is the teamwork on the facility that has made it so successful.

"With support from the architects, City staff and excellent work by the construction trades, the project has run very smooth," Pojar said.

Safety first

As Project Superintendent, Pojar keeps the project

moving forward on schedule. Constantly scrutinizing the construction site, Pojar also makes sure workers wear hardhats and follow safety standards. He unlocks the gates at 6 a.m. and, within an hour, workers line up for stretching exercises.

Over the years, Pojar has received many kudos but he is most proud of the "Project Health and Safety Team of the Year" award from Mortenson for Bloomington's facility. The team was honored for excellent safety performance and for being "accident-free" since they began construction in winter 2001. ♦

City of Bloomington
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Dedicated to Service

Combining resources to strengthen our community and neighbors

“Collaborating on issues concerning employment, housing, transportation, nutrition, immigration and volunteers, the City of Bloomington ensures that residents benefit from the opportunities and resources available in the region.”

**Lorinda Pearson, Manager
Human Services Division**

Mayor Gene Winstead

Bloomington citizens contribute to a quality community by sharing their resources, time and ideas. Neighborhood Watch is comprised of residents who meet to discuss concerns and ways to reduce crime. Other residents, such as Bloomington's 147 firefighters, serve and protect our city every day.

Collaborative efforts

Neighbors helping neighbors works the same way for cities. The legislature and governor are emphasizing the need for government cooperation during these lean economic times. Bloomington has collaborated with its neighbors to share resources, save money and enhance service for years. Partnerships include:

Public safety training facility

A joint public safety training facility to be used by approximately 600 police and fire personnel is being constructed. The facility is a collaborative effort of the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport Police Department and the Fire and Police Departments of the cities of Eden Prairie, Edina and Bloomington. Located in Edina, the center will open in fall 2003.

Inspections

Bloomington's Building and Inspection, and Environment Health provide inspections through a contract with the city of Richfield. This is more cost-effective for Richfield, and Bloomington gains flexibility in staffing.



INSPECTIONS



JOINT POLICE/FIRE TRAINING

Health care

To offer a range of services and programs that include providing health care for prenatal moms to home care services for older adults, Bloomington Public Health partners with the cities of Richfield and Edina.

Human Services

Bloomington Human Services partners with more than 35 organizations, including non-profit groups and the School District, to bring programs and services to our community. A partnership with Hennepin South Services Collaborative, a joint-effort with the cities of Bloomington, Richfield and Eden Prairie, focuses on human services research planning and coordination.

Cooperatives

To be more efficient, cities work together to provide services to residents. Cooperatives keep costs low, eliminate duplication of services and strengthen Bloomington and surrounding communities. The City belongs to several cooperatives:

Sharing information

During the past year, the City joined Local Government Information Systems, a consortium of approximately 30 cities and agencies in surrounding communities, to acquire a law enforcement management information system. The advantage of belonging to this cooperative is that it frees up internal staff resources, saves initial capital expenses and enhances public safety through information sharing.

Meeting public health needs

In 1999, Bloomington was the first city to join Minnesota Counties Computer Cooperative (MCCC), along with more than 20 counties. The City belongs to MCCC's community health services group that provides software products tailored to meet the needs of cities and counties who provide public health services.

Belonging to this consortium helps determine the best way to share costs and implement changes in order to adhere to federal and state laws.

Keeping costs low

Bloomington, along with 750 other cities, is a member of the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust (LMCIT).

Cities contribute to a jointly owned fund instead of buying insurance from a private company. The advantage of insurance through this cooperative is that it is a stable source of coverage that does not follow the "ups and downs" of private industry cycles. Participating with LMCIT since 1986, the City has saved a cumulative

\$245,000 compared to what it would have paid to a commercial insurer for property and casualty insurance.

Partnerships for the future

Improving our lives and communities through partnerships is not a new concept. Cities have mutual agreements to assist each other in providing essential services when necessary. This sharing of resources keeps costs down and enhances both the level and quality of services provided. As we face the tough economic challenges ahead, we will continue to maintain quality communities through strong relationships we have developed with our neighbors. ♦



PROGRAMS THAT SUPPORT OUR KIDS

School District

The City has had a long-term partnership with the Bloomington School District to share resources and save costs. The most apparent collaborations are through Parks and Recreation with programs including Galaxy Youth Center, Summer Spectrum and Adaptive Recreation & Learning Exchange (AR&LE). See page 4.

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Photographs of elected officials are presented by the City of Bloomington for informational purposes only.

Visit our Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us.

The **Briefing**, a bimonthly newsletter published by the municipal government organization of the City of Bloomington, Minnesota, is mailed to Bloomington residents and businesses. Direct comments or suggestions to Communications Administrator Diann Kirby, City of Bloomington, 2215 W. Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3096; phone 952-563-8818; TTY 952-563-8740; FAX 952-563-8715; e-mail dkirby@ci.bloomington.mn.us. If you require Braille, larger print or computer disk, contact Diann Kirby, 952-563-8818.

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The City of Bloomington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status or status with regard to public assistance in employment or the provision of services. • The City of Bloomington does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or activities. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Bloomington services, programs and activities. The City has designated coordinators to facilitate compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), as required by Section 35.107 of the U.S. Department of Justice Regulations, and to coordinate compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as mandated by Section 8.53 of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Regulations. For information, contact the Human Services Division, City of Bloomington, 2215 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3096; phone: 952-563-8700; TTY: 952-563-8740.

New chief heads Bloomington Police Department

Bloomington has a new chief of police. John Laux, former Minneapolis Police Chief, began his duties on March 3.

Laux served 27 years with the Minneapolis Police Department, including six years as chief from 1989 through 1994. He was executive director of the Minnesota Peace Officer Standards and Training Board from 1995 to 1998.

Laux describes leading Bloomington's Police force as his "dream job."

"I never thought I would have the opportunity to be police chief in the community where I have spent most of my adult life," said Laux. "I have a long-standing admiration for Bloomington's well-managed and well-equipped Police

Department and will build from a good legacy."

A Bloomington resident of 40 years, Laux has been actively engaged in the community. He served as president of the Bloomington Citizens Crime Prevention Association and assisted with plans for the City's new police headquarters scheduled to open in June.

Laux said he is prepared to meet the challenges of a changing community.

"Our community is aging and we need to continue to provide a safe, friendly environment for Bloomington residents," Laux said. "It is also important to stay on top of changing technology trends that can enhance service."



Laux is in charge of the City's 114 police officers. He replaces former Chief Roger Willow who served Bloomington from 1998 until his retirement last May. Deputy Chief Ron Whitehead has led the department as acting chief. ♦

Transportation Update

2003 Street construction season begins

Street construction creates safer, more efficient and less-congested roadways.

Another busy season of street construction will soon begin in Bloomington. In 2002, crews faced challenges with the fourth wettest summer on record. A dryer summer this year would help construction projects move more smoothly and remain on schedule. Some of last year's projects including West Old Shakopee Road at Normandale Boulevard, Nesbitt Avenue north of West Old Shakopee Road, and 110th Street between France Avenue and Normandale Boulevard will be finished this spring. Projects scheduled for 2003 include:

Bridge over I-35W

Pending agency agreements and funding resolution, construction of a bridge over I-35W in the American Boulevard (79th/80th Street) corridor could begin. This important east-west link, envisioned in the mid-1980s, wasn't built because the future expansion of I-35W was

unknown at the time. Construction will take 18 months to complete. A federal grant will fund 80 percent of construction costs. State aid and the Minnesota Department of Transportation will also support the project.

American Boulevard

American Boulevard will be widened and reconstructed between Knox and Penn avenues. As in other completed sections of American Boulevard, this project will feature terra cotta-colored concrete adjacent to the curb, and center medians with plants and trees. Traffic will be maintained throughout construction. Completion is scheduled for fall 2003.

Airport South

American Boulevard will be reconstructed and widened between TH77 (Cedar Avenue) and 28th Avenue to make way for construction of the next phases of the Mall of America on the old Met Center site. Eighty

percent of construction costs are covered by federal funds.

Residential streets

Maintenance continues on a number of streets across the city. Under the City's Pavement Management Program, selected streets will receive an overlay (resurfacing of the topwearing surface of the pavement) or a full reconstruction (complete rebuilding of the pavement structure). To best utilize maintenance dollars, staff regularly updates street conditions in a computer database. This ensures the right maintenance at the right time. Current street projects have been requested for feasibility study and have not been finalized for construction by the City Council.

For more information, call Engineering at 952-563-4870. For a complete listing of proposed street projects, visit the City's Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword "street." ♦



Study helps determine travel patterns

Last September, Bloomington's Engineering Division, along with a Twin Cities consulting group, conducted a traffic study in the area of Normandale Boulevard and West 84th Street. Data was collected during peak traffic conditions and from a follow-up mail survey. The information is used to determine travel patterns and factors that influence driver route selection.

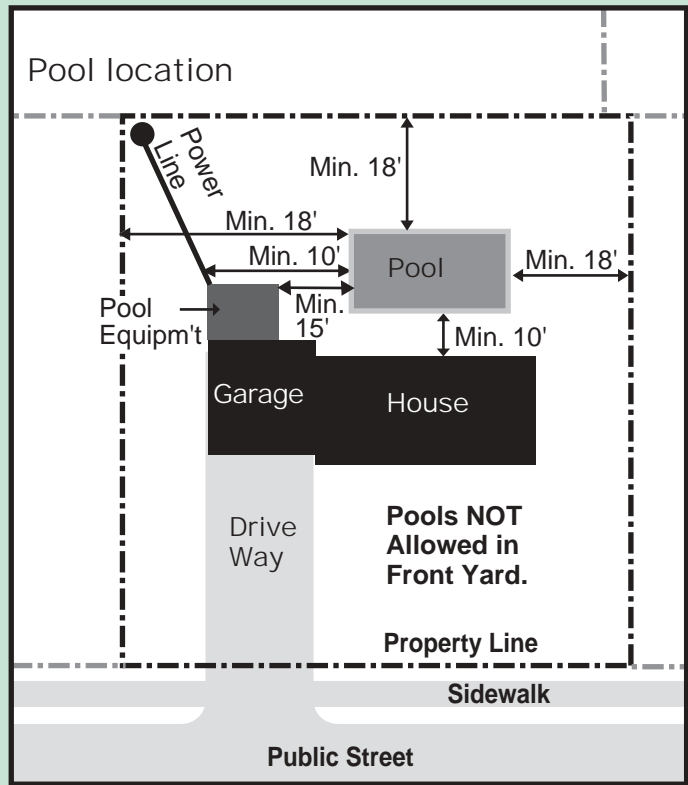
The study found that:

- ♦ 85 percent of traffic originates and/or is destined for a location in Bloomington.
- ♦ 73 percent of peak period traffic is trips between home and work.

The traffic study data, along with other data including traffic counts, will be used to evaluate any future transportation system modifications in the area. For more information, call Traffic Engineer Chad Smith at 952-563-4915. ♦

Swimming pool/hot tub installation

Swimming pools and hot tubs more than 75 square feet in area and more than 24 inches deep require a City permit.



For more information, call Environmental Health at 952-563-8934. ♦

Fence installation guidelines



In his poem "Mending Wall," Robert Frost wrote, "Good fences make good neighbors." Build a good fence in Bloomington by following the City's zoning code guidelines. They include:

Height

- ♦ Fence height may not exceed six feet above the natural grade of the property.
- ♦ A fence that is more than six feet high must adhere to structural setbacks, or have a variance, and requires a building permit for construction.

Location

- ♦ A fence less than six feet high may be located anywhere on the owner's property, but there are special provisions for fences on corner lots to prevent blocking visibility at intersections.
- ♦ It is important to locate property lines and easements when installing a fence. A metal detector should be used to locate property irons before a fence is built. A survey may also be needed. (Private property surveying for this purpose is not a service the City offers.)
- ♦ Maintenance of both sides of the fence (painting, mowing, etc.) should be considered when determining placement.

Around swimming pools and spas

- ♦ Pools, including spas, must be fenced for child safety reasons.
- ♦ Prior to installation, fences must be approved by Environmental Health.
- ♦ Fence height must be at least four feet and not more than six feet.
- ♦ Fences must include a self-closing, self-latching gate with the latch located at least four feet off the ground.

For more information, call Planning at 952-563-8920 or visit the City's Web site ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword "fences." Handouts are also available in Building and Inspection at City Hall, 2215 W. Old Shakopee Road. ♦

Check for underground utilities! Before digging, call Gopher State One Call at 651-454-0002.

PARKS, RECREATION & ARTS UPDATE

For more information, call Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8877.

Summer in Bloomington is “sun”sational!

Soak up the sun at Bloomington’s Aquatic Center or Bush Lake Beach this summer. Sign up for classes, lessons and camps sponsored by Parks and Recreation, the Bloomington Art Center and Community Education. With Bloomington parks, the sky’s the limit!!



Dates to remember:

Saturday,
April 12

Super Sign-up Saturday Register for all summer programs at Oak Grove Intermediate, 1300 W. 106th St., 9 - 11 a.m.

Wednesday,
April 16

Registration at Parks and Recreation in City Hall begins.

Saturday,
June 7

Bloomington Family Aquatic Center and Bush Lake Beach open.

Monday,
June 16

Summer Spectrum classes, Summer Playground program, youth tennis lessons and Arts in the Parks series begin.

Monday,
June 16

Tiny Tots Program starts.

Summer Spectrum 2003

Spanning eight weeks, Summer Spectrum classes focus on youth entering grades K through 9. Classes and camps will be held at Oak Grove Elementary, 1300 W. 104th St., with bus transportation from the city’s neighborhoods.

Catalog

To make planning easier, a catalog was mailed to the parents of school age children in Bloomington. If you have not received a catalog, or you need more information, call Parks and Recreation. The catalog is also on our Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword “spectrum.”

Collaborative effort

Summer Spectrum is a program of Bloomington Public Schools’ Community Education, the City’s Parks and Recreation Division and the Bloomington Art Center. ♦

Youth, celebrate summer 2003!

Galaxy Youth Center

Where: Valley View Middle School.
8900 Portland Ave.

When: June 16 - August 15.

Call: 952-681-6100.



Adaptive Recreation & Learning Exchange Cooperative



ARLE offers opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in recreation, leisure and community education programs in the four cities of Bloomington, Eden Prairie, Edina and Richfield.

Youth Softball

Who: Boys and girls with disabilities, ages 10 - 18.

When: Monday, June 9 - July 21, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Where: Tarnhill Park, Field #2, 9650 Little Road.

Cost: \$42 resident; \$47 non-resident.
Includes team shirt.

Register: Call Parks and Recreation.

Adult Co-Rec Softball League

League A - Bloomington

Who: Adults, 19 and older. Players need softball experience, understanding of scoring process and a desire to play in a competitive league.

When: Tuesdays, June 10 - July 22, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Where: Tarnhill Park, Field #2, 9650 Little Road

Cost: \$42 resident; \$47 non-resident.
Includes team shirt.

Register: Call Parks and Recreation.

League B - Richfield

Who: Adults, 19 and older. Players need to be able to follow simple directions and maintain a high interest in softball.

Register: Call Kristin, Richfield Adaptive Recreation, at 612-861-9361. ♦

Swimming

Bloomington Family Aquatic Center

301 E. 90th Street

The Bloomington Family Aquatic Center is again making waves this summer. Enjoy a second season of family fun with amenities that include a zero-depth entry pool, interactive play features, waterslides, diving boards, sand volleyball and a remodeled bathhouse and concession stand.



Dates: June 7 - August 24.

Time: Noon - 8 p.m.

Cost:	Age	Daily Admission	After 5 p.m.
	Under 1 year	Free	Free
	1 - 5 years	\$4	\$3
	6 - 54 years	\$6	\$4
	55+ years	\$4	\$3

Season passes:

Family (2 people):

Resident	\$60 + \$10 each add'l + tax.
Non-Resident	\$110 + \$10 each add'l + tax.

Individual

Resident	\$30 + tax.
Non-Resident	\$55 + tax.

Purchase your season passes here:

- ♦ Super Sign-up on April 12.
- ♦ Parks and Recreation Office starting April 22.
- ♦ Aquatic Center on June 7.

Swimming Lessons

Swimming lessons are available this summer at the Aquatic Center and Bush Lake Beach. Details are in the *Summer Spectrum* brochure.

Bush Lake Beach

9140 E. Bush Lake Road

Reach for the beach! Can you think of anything better to do on a hot summer day? Remember a daily or annual Three Rivers Park District pass is required for entrance to Bush Lake.

When: June 7 - August 24, Noon - 8 p.m. ♦

Summer Jobs

Parks and Recreation is seeking highly motivated and creative people to fill a variety of seasonal positions. For an application, call us today or download it from the City’s Web site www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords “recreation jobs.”

Wanted:

Board games

For the playground program this summer, Parks and Recreation would love to have kids’ board games that you no longer use. Bring board games to Super Sign-up Saturday or drop off at Parks and Recreation during regular business hours.

Arts in the Parks

Warm weather and long summer days provide the perfect setting for band and orchestra concerts, dance and choral performances, theatrical productions, historic events and a dazzling line-up of professional musicians performing something to suit everyone. Watch for our summer schedule in the June *Briefing* or visit the City’s Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords “parks 2003.”

Gideon Pond Open House

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Gideon H. Pond House, 401 E. 104th St., is open the third Sunday of each month, 1:30 - 4 p.m. Programs are scheduled each month in conjunction with the house tours.

Learn how to make corn-husk dolls!

When: Sunday, April 27.

Time: Session I: 12 - 1 p.m.

Session II: 1 - 2 p.m.

Cost: \$4, incl. entrance fee.

RSVP: Call 952-563-8881. Limited space available. House tours from 2 - 4 p.m. this day.

Summer Fete

Summer Fete is Thursday, July 3, at Normandale Lake Park, 84th St. and Normandale Blvd. Support the event by donating. Watch for the “I Support Summer Fete Fireworks” envelope in your City utility bill. For sponsorship, call 952-563-8881.

Garden plots

Garden plots are available at E. 83rd St. at Park Ave. S. Cost is \$25.

Canoe rack rentals

Canoe racks on Bush Lake’s west side are available for rent May 1 - October 31. Cost is \$53.50. ♦